

# Point Three



The Toc H magazine  
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**MARKS**

(pages 8-9)

# Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House — the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

## Cover picture

The cover picture shows Tom Millican (Kendal Joint Branch) with his guide dog, Hunter. Tom, one of our Braille Point Three readers, has just been awarded his BA degree by the Open University after three years of intensive study.

# Personal View

## ST MARK — EVANGELIST

Our Main Resolution reminds us that *'behind the ebb and flow of things temporal stand the eternal realities'*. I am writing this in depressing February weather, besieged daily by pressure groups about organisation and finance, about staffing and buildings. So, it is with some relief (and without any qualms of conscience) that I have decided to turn my thoughts for a little while to the gospel of St Mark — something that has lasted and will last far longer than any of our day to day concerns.

We know nothing about Mark save what we can put together from a handful of New Testament references and a few persistent traditions in Eastern and Western Churches. He is said to be the John Mark whose Jerusalem family home was one of the meeting places of the Apostles. Some claim that he is the young man, described in Mark's own gospel, who ran after Jesus when He was arrested but managed to avoid getting caught himself. The cousin of St Barnabas, he shared in some of his missionary work in Cyprus. In one of his Epistles, St Paul tells us that Mark worked with him in Rome. St Peter refers to him affectionately in his first Epistle. There are strong traditions that he became the first Bishop of Alexandria and that he was martyred in Rome in AD 74. St Mark is the patron saint of Venice and his sign (a lion) is to be seen all over the city. The Basilica in Venice claims his relics and boasts a set of glowing mosaics that picture the story of his life.

Those of us who still read the New Testament are more familiar with the other Synoptic Gospels than we are with St Mark's. St Matthew's tells us at length the moving story of the Passion; St Luke's has all the early family details believed to come from Mary, the Mother of Jesus. But it is St Mark's gospel that makes us sit up straight. It is short (one commentator pointed out recently that we can read it in less time than most of us devote to our Sunday newspapers), exciting and has no wasted words. The actor Alec McCowan committed the whole gospel to memory and packed theatres for months with his stirring reading of it. It is nothing like as literary a work as the other Gospels: it was written in the loose, popular Greek spoken and understood in much of the Mediterranean area of his day. It is a terse, packed narrative which comes to an abrupt end. There is an astonishing vividness in the story as he tells it: the reader feels that Mark must have known all the characters and witnessed all the events he described. But, of course, Mark was not one of the 12. The usual explanation of this paradox is that he had become the close friend and follower of St Peter. It is suggested that when Peter escaped from prison (Acts 12) it was in the house of Mark's mother that he found refuge. Certainly Mark is believed to have worked with Peter in Rome. So that, in a sense, his gospel is really the gospel of Peter who *had* seen it all.

Each of the gospel writers tells us something about Jesus: none of them can tell us all. Mark devotes the whole of the second half of his gospel to the theme of Christ as Messiah, who had to meet misunderstanding, had to endure persecution, had to die but who finally overcame all. In the earlier part of the gospel, we hear much about Christ's occasional strange silences — His holding back of part of His message. He cures men but orders them to say nothing. He pulls away from His mass audiences to teach His small group of disciples what the crowds could not grasp: but even they did not always understand Him. One commentator pointed out recently that it was as though no-one — not even His closest friends — could fully understand Jesus until His mission was completed and until in some way they had been able to share in His life.

All this gives me a glimmering of understanding of this remarkable gospel — of why Mark wrote it when he did and why he chose his special themes. Christ had been crucified some 30 years earlier. The Emperor Nero's savage persecution of Christians had begun in Rome. Peter had already been martyred. Nero's violence was spreading and Christians were going into hiding in the catacombs beneath the city. It was just at this time that Mark set out to write his story. He wrote directly — even bluntly — for his frightened brethren of a Christ who, throughout His public life, had been hounded by the establishment; who had been persistently misunderstood by the multitudes (who saw only His miracles and scarcely heard His message); who was only partially understood even by his own disciples; who, betrayed by a friend, was tortured and put to death; but who finally triumphed in His Resurrection. It seems to me very likely, as the old tradition has it, that Mark wrote his gospel as a direct response to the State's first massive persecution of the Christian Church. At last, Christ's followers did not plan his gospel as a coffee table volume for ladies and gentlemen of leisure: it was a handbook for a people facing crisis.

St Mark's feast day is 25 April.

# The Wider Family

## Argentina

Buenos Aires Branch sent us in January a copy of their Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. They have some 26 members and 12 Builders. The Branch meets regularly and members are involved in hospital visiting, collection of used stamps (for Toc H S Africa!), the provision of blankets and toys for distribution by the Salvation Army and visits to patients in mental homes.

## Canada

We are delighted to know that we still have a number of *Point Three* readers (and Toc H diary users!) in Canada. We quote here from a recent letter the International Secretary received from Toronto Branch: *'It is interesting reading the different views expressed in Point Three' about Use of Resources! I'm afraid I would "gamble" and spend. Opportunities are so easily lost these days. Staff is vital, but I think it should be well trained in teaching what Toc H is all about - else we lose our soul. There are many service organisations who do jobs well, but are not necessarily concerned with the spiritual growth of the individual. Toc H is. It worries me a bit when I read in our magazine about so much time being spent on raising money for other organisations - a worthwhile thing in itself, but is it our job? Thank Huw Gibbs for his article "Bitter and Sweet" in the November issue. I think it was not accident that the Editor put it on the last two pages. He had the final say!'*

## Southern Africa



## Australia

We seem to be hearing a great deal from Western Australia since Bill Brown arrived there! He and Fred Mills have written to say that their members would love to meet anyone visiting from Britain. You can contact them at their Area HQ

address, which is: 295 Rokeby Road, Subiaco, WA 6008. (Tel No: (09) 382 1389). The pictures show members in their workshop assembling flashing light kits and Subiaco's 'Community Fair', held last November.



Toc H Queenstown have had considerable aid from Help the Aged in their feeding project for the elderly Black people. The picture was taken during one of their regular food distributions.

We have also received from Allan Hunt (Farnborough, Hants) a long account of the holiday he and his wife spent in Australia between October 1981 and January 1982. They toured quite extensively and saw a lot of Toc H. We hope to print their account in a later issue.

## India

Trivandrum Branch has sent us their quarterly report. Among their many activities, members foster a young child, visit the sick and disabled and help handicapped children. They run a music group and are planning a nursery-cum-music school. These are only samples of the wide range of work listed in this report. The report also contains a brief account of their celebration of the World Chain of Light.

# Round and about

with Scott Shaw

## Direct approach

If you're doing something worthwhile and you want some volunteers – ask! That's the philosophy of Martin Rivett, leader of two Broads District Toc H playschemes.

He has arranged for the Headquarters Print Room to produce 750 handbills for volunteers '... with a sense of humour and a great supply of energy; volunteers will be part of a team in which work is not taken too seriously ...'

An eye catching idea was to have the handbills done on press release paper. (This has a bold heading 'news from Toc H' pre-printed in bright orange at £1.25 for 100 sheets, plus postage). The handbill includes a form for further information.

Congratulations on a good, direct appeal, Martin; we'll be interested to see how it turns out, but why aren't these playschemes in the Projects Booklet?

## Au revoir, Crispin!

The Revd Crispin White, staff member in the Mid-Eastern Region, is leaving us to join the South Hampshire Industrial Mission in Portsmouth. Operating in a team of three full time and seven part time staff, his ministry will bring him into contact with workers, management and unions.

In Toc H, Crispin has operated at both national and Regional level. He is perhaps best known to the Movement as the producer of the impressive audio-visual presentations at the two festivals at Central Hall, and he also runs the Toc H slide library. Fortunately for us, he has agreed to continue to do so.

Locally, he has been involved with helping the young unemployed, has served on various voluntary bodies and helped establish religious broadcasting in Peterborough.

Crispin is no stranger to the South; he used to be a staff member in Hampshire, in the old Western Region. Before joining the staff, he worked in a Canadian parish, where the only transport was by boat, aircraft or snowmobile, but that's another story ...

## Third time lucky – perhaps!

We all have our favourite stories about how we coped with the winter weather but Leslie Morrison of Alloa has one that takes some beating. Last October, he booked a tour to Poperinge and it was cancelled.

But there was a second chance. Let Leslie take up the story: 'I was delighted when I heard that a party was being organised by Padre Colin Rudd of the South Eastern Region to go over for

the World Chain of Light. I immediately got in touch with him and received a warm invitation to join them. And a great adventure began.

*'Having travelled from Scotland the day previously and received royal hospitality overnight from Colin and his wife (not forgetting four year old Jonathan) we left Milton Keynes at 7.30am, with one member to pick up at Hatfield, and a ferry to catch at Dover at 1.30pm. Unfortunately, someone must have forgotten to tell us that weather conditions could make a difference! Instead of reaching Hatfield by 8.10am (Colin's timing), we sat down to lunch there at 12.30pm snow and ice on the M1 and M10 being really terrible.*

*'At this point we were all willing to turn back especially as Colin was taking all the strain of driving, but he would not hear of it. He carried on and we eventually got as far as London by 4.30pm. There, having phoned the London weather centre and been told that conditions on the other side of the Channel were, if anything, worse than on this side, he was persuaded to turn back. The traffic having thinned a little we made a slightly quicker journey back, and I spent another hospitable night under his roof. The next day I travelled back to Scotland. I should have arrived at Stirling at 4.30pm but eventually reached there at 12.10 the following morning.*

*'Some people thought I was mad to attempt it. I might have been, but for one thing, and that was the way in which those wonderful people took me into their company and into their hearts. Weather conditions could not spoil the very wonderful fellowship that existed in that minibus. It was a truly great experience – Toc H at its best. So thank you Colin, Agnes, Bill, Mary, Alfie, Doreen and Gladys for letting me share this great experience with you. I hope we will all meet again before long.*

And thank you Leslie. We hope you make it next time!

## A memory in Belfast

A chair in the name of Toc H was dedicated on Christmas morning in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. This was a gift from former women members, no longer able to continue as a Branch because of problems of meeting in the city, as well as increasing age and health problems.

## You know who your friends are

When Coningsby Joint Branch celebrated their Golden Jubilee in February, there was no shortage of guests – or publicity. More than 120 people turned up for their Rededication Service – not only six

Branches from the surrounding area, but also representatives of the parish council, Age Concern, the Mothers' Union, British Legion and the local Baptist and Methodist Churches.

Refreshments (including a cake with the Toc H lamp) were followed by a musical interlude from the Lonsdale Brass Consort and a talk from Frank Rice, the Toc H Communications Secretary. He pointed out that we must change the attitude of human beings towards one another, before we can change society. A jubilee he said was cause for celebration, but for it to have real benefit, it had to be used as a springboard for future progress.

Also present were local newspaper men and an interviewer from the BBC's local radio station who recorded material for later broadcasts. The whole evening ran smoothly, happily and to time – sure hallmarks of careful pre-planning. Well done Coningsby. The moral is – if you've got something worth celebrating, make sure you shout about it!

## Fundraising experts!

Parkhurst Women's Branch (IOW) certainly means business! They raised £450 at a mini-market and charities fair and have donated £300 of this to the Family Purse.

Well done ladies. Perhaps you'd care to tell us how you did it.

## Are they the champions?

Which is the most active and popular Branch in the Movement? At the moment Rhyl men, with 12 members, and an average age of 61, seem to be the champions.

They are normally busy in the summer months, running holidays for deprived children at their Rhyl centre. But what happens in the winter? They're just as busy!

These holidays cost money and, undeterred by the bad weather, they've raised money by holding a hot-pot supper, beetle drive, two film shows of the holidays, a Christmas dinner, a concert by Toc H members and friends and a very successful barn dance.

Tom Griffiths, their secretary reports 'The outcome is that we have a committed band of friends some 60 in number – many of whom are now keen and willing to become full Toc H members'.

He adds nonchalantly: 'There are a few more special evenings and a flag day before our first children arrive at Easter'.

Here comes the commercial! He continues: 'I am sure many Branches could inspire new interest if they considered organising a week's holiday for deprived children at our centre. Looking at statistics, we find that since 1950, 15,000 deprived children have had a week's free holiday with us'.



Members of Ilminster Branch busy packing parcels for some of their town's elderly and housebound. (Note: the Toc H carrier bags are still available from Wendover, price £5 per 100!)

# Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during January and February.

- 3 — Strode Park & Herne (j)
- 2 — Clacton Afternoon (w),  
Coningsby (j), Owton Manor (w),  
Tyneside and Wearside District
- 1 — Bakewell (j), Bideford (w),  
Broadstairs & St Peters (m),  
Buckingham (m), Central Overseas,  
Chippenham Triffids (j) Group,  
Colwyn Bay (m), Crawley (m),  
Deal & Walmer (j), Kings Norton  
& Northfield (w), Inner London  
District, Loughborough (j),  
Manchester District, Nailsea (w)  
Group, Richmond (Surrey) (j),  
Stockton (j) Group, Uxbridge (j),  
Western Approaches and Chiltern  
Vale District, Whitstable (w),  
Workshop (j).

A warm welcome to 31 new members

The picture was taken at Kettering Men's Branch's annual outing for old people in their area. They took some 44 guests to a Northampton pantomime following which they sat down to a splendid meal prepared by Derngate School for girls as part of their social activities work.



Photo: Northants Evening Telegraph



The Governor of Whatton Detention Centre (joined by the Mayor of Rushcliffe) led her staff to victory in the Bingham Branches' Boxing Day version of 'It's a Knockout'.



Photo: Grimsby Evening Telegraph

Frank King (Barton-on-Humber Joint Branch) presents a cheque for £25 to Songster Mrs Jean Middleton of the town's SA Corps: the money helped the Army to feed some 40 lonely and housebound people.

# From the General Secretary

In February's *Point Three* I tried to outline some of the Personnel Committee's thoughts on full time staff. This led me on to speak in positive terms about the important role of members in general and of Regional Executives and Councils in particular. I want to say more about that now. But first may I say how careful I have to be to avoid being misinterpreted! For example, I said in February that Regional Councils and their Executives can devote more of their time and talents to developing policy within their Regions now that they are freed of *'the fiddling and worrying work involved in their former responsibility for staff deployment'*. To my amazement, some Regional Councillors (see *Open Forum* elsewhere in this issue) have taken this as a criticism of the devoted and valuable work they have been doing – often for years and always without tangible reward. All Regional Councillors please note that nothing was farther from my thoughts! I meant to say – and thought I had said – that all the most important part of the work you do remains and it can be further developed now that one less important but very time consuming part had moved to us.

By now you will know that our full time staff has been reduced. This Headquarters has had a further cut by 'natural wastage'; eight members of staff – six field staff, one Mark Warden and one HQ staff member – have been declared redundant, each one receiving some six months notice; before the end of the year, we expect to lose three more members of field staff who plan to move into other spheres of service, and one new young member of staff will be joining us. The need to operate in future with a smaller staff is not something to cause us despair: it offers us the challenge and the opportunity to make a reality of our constant claim to be a 'membership Movement'. I want to use what space I have to explain some of the ways in which I think we can grasp that opportunity.

First a word about what have come to be called 'key' people. I won't elaborate on the phrase because you will have heard it discussed in your Branches on the recently issued No 2 Resources Tape. But in general we are talking about members

who are actual or potential local leaders in the Movement. Some of these may still need to be identified, of course, but we do know that there are many of us about who can help the growth of the Movement over and above our normal Branch work. These will all have different contributions to make, depending on the time they have available, their particular interests and their special talents. Increasingly, we shall need to depend on such good and experienced men and women to support and encourage our Branches by eg feeding in fresh ideas, making new local contacts, linking new people with our Branches and Groups, arranging training sessions and encouraging the spread and the practical use made of projects in the area. Others may be able to take over more of the necessary local secretarial work thus keeping going our essential pastoral work – calling on new people, keeping in touch with District members, ensuring that the sick are visited, and so on.

In all this, let us not forget the steadily growing importance of the District and the District Branch. Our work is essentially local and personal. We cannot rely on a remote executive committee to supply local leadership and support. We have to do this ourselves, deciding local policies and calling on local members to carry them out. Above all, we must show

care and concern for each other in our Districts. Remember that the pagans of the Roman Empire spoke of the early Christians in amazement: *'See how they love one another'*.

In my February article I spoke of Regional Councils and their Executive Committees developing policies for Toc H growth within their Regions. This clearly must start with analysing the Region's particular needs and potentials. I know one Region which has a very well thought out five year plan and is devoting all its financial and manpower resources to fulfilling it. Another has asked all its Branches to complete a carefully constructed questionnaire. A third has asked all its Districts to formulate a local policy and pass their plans to the REC for building into a Regional pattern of progress. The approach will vary with the size and make-up of the Region but there is no shortage of valuable and important thinking and planning work to be done. And whatever the particular approach chosen, every Regional Council and Executive will need to concentrate on 'key' people – finding them, training them, encouraging them and helping them to work together in the framework of the Region's policy.

There is no doubt that we shall be going through difficult times. We here have already discovered that every hard decision reached by the Central Executive will be challenged by one group or another and that some will be almost universally unpopular. But we are not in the business of courting popularity or of avoiding tough decisions in a vague search for consensus. We are in the business of ensuring that Toc H is able to go on with its unfinished business of changing men and women, of seeking the Kingdom, in a world which seems increasingly hostile.

## To Cook Hamburgers?

by Margaret McGettrick

Despite its unusual name, 'Toc H' does cause interest and provoke people to ask me what it's all about. What do you say when someone asks you?

One of the difficulties of being a staff member in South Africa was explaining the meaning of Toc H to people of different cultures and languages, many of whom had only a minimal grasp of the English language and to whom the First World War, trenches, clubs and signallers' language were almost alien concepts! 'What is "Tosh"?' was a frequent question. If you'd never heard of Toc H you might well think this was the correct pronunciation for such an unusual spelling! I confided my frustration to a black ex-staff member who advised me to

describe the initials as standing for what we are and what we do. Explanations could come later. A group of black South Africans were asked what they thought the initials stood for and came up with the very unlikely: *'To cook Hamburgers?'* What we needed was a simple direct explanation that could easily be remembered and put into practice. So this is what we came up with:

*To create Harmony* (love widely)  
*To combat Hate* (think fairly)  
*To offer the community Help* (build bravely)  
*To make Christianity work by working* (witness humbly)

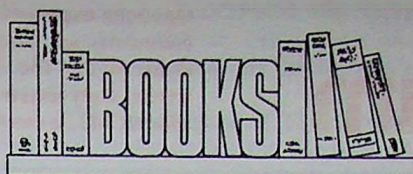
Perhaps you can think of some more?



Thelma Worley (Chairman of Rushden-Pythchley Branch) presents a clock to the nurses and patients of Rushden Medical Centre. The gift was bought with part of the money raised by the Toc H tea tent at last year's Rushden Carnival.



Corby Joint Branch has special links with the 53 residents of a local old folks' home. Here, Branch Chairman Frank Mason presents their house with a colour TV set.



## Munday's Child by Dorcas Munday

This is 35 year old Dorcas Munday's own life story. Dorcas is a spastic confined to a wheelchair who types and paints by means of a stick held in her mouth and is able to telephone with the aid of a special amplification system. An only child, she lives with her parents in their Northants home. Despite her very severe handicap, Dorcas has worked as an assistant tutor on PHAB courses and helps to lead a PHAB club she set up in Kettering some seven years ago. During the International Year of Disabled People, she gave many talks to concerned groups.

In this illustrated book of about 100 pages, Dorcas tells us of the many ways in which she has overcome the difficulties of her physical handicap. She describes how, with a little help and encouragement from the able bodied, a severely handicapped person can enjoy life. 'Life in a wheelchair' she says, 'can be good': she loves travelling and meeting people. Disabled people, she points out, do not want our pity: they ask for compassion and understanding and, above all, the chance to integrate fully with the rest of us. This need has not ended now that the International Year of Disabled People is over.

The book is available (price £2 + 35p p & p) from the author at 'Dale Cottage', 129 Midland Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 1NB.

FGR

## A Pensioner's Prayer Book by J H Speed

Harold Speed, for many years a Methodist Local Preacher and now confined to his armchair through illness, has used his enforced rest to compile this small collection of homely devotions.

For each day of the month there is a suggested theme with appropriate hymn, Bible reading and prayer. The down to earth simplicity of these prayers shows a sensitive insight into the hopes and fears of the elderly. Mr Speed has put into words the ordinary man's thoughts facing the day to day difficulties, pain and frustrations that come with age and loneliness. It must surely be beneficial for the reader to find that he is not alone in his thoughts. Good to know, too, that there is so much hope expressed throughout the book. These prayers will help to bring comfort in sorrow, courage in adversity, and an assurance that God loves each one of us. Mr Speed's heart is in this book.

Harold Speed has been a member of Bebington Branch of Toc H since its inception. His business life was spent on the Fruit Exchange in Liverpool, necessitating a 5 am start to the day. He founded the Bebington Old People's Housing Association, one of the pioneers of sheltered housing for the elderly. He is also Vice-President of Bebington Council for Voluntary Service.

Considering the usually limited means of pensioners, it is unfortunate that this little book is priced at £2.95. It is available direct from the publishers, John Paul, The Preacher's Press, Charlton House, Hunslet Road, Leeds LS10 1JW, or through religious booksellers.

Eileen Clark



For nearly 20 years now the Toc H Branch at Skelmorlie, Ayrshire have been putting on a Christmas show for pensioners in their district. Pictured on stage in 'The Big Kilty' pub, Salvationist (Betty Warnock) versus the local drunk while the landlady (Nancy Camduff) disclaims responsibility for his inebriated state. It was all light hearted fun and there was a part for every active member of the Branch. The audience had been treated to tea beforehand and after the show pensioners received gifts of chickens.

# Open Forum

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

## The Marks (An open letter to the Director and the CEC)

What sort of Movement is it that publicises the Marks in *Point Three* and then announces closure within months of all three London Marks, with only Mark 13 eventually to reopen after conversion to flats? The news has stunned many of those associated with Marks, who had no prior warning of your decision.

It is extraordinary that the decision to close the initial expression of Toc H, which gave birth to the Movement and through which many like myself have entered, appears to have been taken without publicity or debate. The Marks, whatever their faults or virtues, formed a permanent Toc H presence and opportunity in inner city areas, where social deprivation is exacerbated by mass unemployment and racial tension.

Surely, remembering the third point of the Compass, you had a moral duty on such a vital and sensitive issue to publicise your intention and to listen to the views of others before coming to a decision. I therefore appeal to you as dedicated and sincere people to rescind your decision in order to allow time for consultation and debate.

Remember, the way a decision is taken probably says more about the Movement than the decision itself.

Do please pause and listen.

John Baines  
Barnet

I was very pleased to read in the Director's article in the March issue of *Point Three* the unequivocal statement by the Executive that residential houses are an essential feature of Toc H; I was delighted with the Executive's commitment to ensure that these houses play an increasingly effective part in the future development of the Movement.

In his second paragraph Ken sets out very fully the objectives of a Toc H house. What he says is exactly what I learnt over 37 years ago when I was first privileged to enjoy the experience of living in a Toc H Mark. It is well worth repeating the essential truths which do not change with the years.

What we must now consider is how this commitment is to be put into effect, and I would like to make some comments, and ask some questions, on the remainder of the Director's article.

1. It is true that in general our present buildings are not adequate by today's standards. Although Ken does not say so, I assume he refers to the fact that

most people today want a single bedroom, whereas many of the rooms in our Marks have two, or even three, beds. Other improvements in facilities are required, but this is a continuous process and every year the residents of each Mark pay directly through their rents several thousand pounds for the repair, upkeep, maintenance and improvement of the houses. The cost of conversion to more single bedrooms will be high, but this will arise in whatever buildings we have or might buy; it is clear that the Movement will never again be able to afford a purpose built Mark such as Prideaux House. It has always required a great deal of effort to keep beds full with the right kind of people, but today with high unemployment and cutbacks in education the struggle just to keep beds full is not unique to Toc H. Over the last two decades the average stay has become shorter and shorter, and this is a fact of life we have to live with.

2. What was the evidence that led the Executive to conclude that our present buildings are too large, that with 30 or so the close knit community is difficult, if not impossible, to create, that a house with a maximum of 12 residents will be able to create this community and have 'a nucleus of people with a Christian commitment' and 'the majority of residents can come from the widest possible mixture of backgrounds and beliefs'? The recent Marks Review Team came to no such conclusion, the recent experience of life in Marks by members of the Executive was of a short term nature, and, as far as I am aware, the views of the many members with considerable long term experience of life in Marks was not sought. To say the least, the view of the Executive is a most extraordinary one and needs careful examination and a full debate.

3. The idea of smaller residential houses has been around for at least three years, and we were told the money would be made available to buy them without any suggestion that existing Marks would have to be sold. What has happened in that period? The Croydon Centre has been closed and sold and one house has recently opened in Nottingham. It seems, therefore, that it is not so easy to find these 'two or three people' or if found to acquire a suitable building.

4. Has the Executive considered the financial viability of these smaller units? I assume it is not intended that they should be subsidised out of the Family Purse. All experience shows that the smaller the numbers the more difficult it is to 'balance the books', and that the smallest viable number is around

30. Has the Executive considered how a larger number of units are to be controlled and supervised, and how the properties are to be maintained?

5. The most important aspect of all, the human element, does not rate even a line in the Director's article. What is to happen to the people at present living in the Marks, many of whom have given years of devoted service to Toc H? What of the work that is currently going on in and from the existing Marks and their plans for the future? Has any consideration been given to these questions?

Peter Robinson  
Northwood

Toc H is people – Toc H cares!

In December, the Central Executive passed a resolution to close all Marks by December 1983. Since then, the London Marks have been told they will close at the end of June 1982 and residents should seek other accommodation.

Toc H is a mixture – some of its members more able than others. Marks are also a mixture – the more able caring for the less able.

At the same time as some of us learnt of the precipitate action taken as a result of the Central Executive decision, we also learnt of the shortage and need for hostel accommodation in London.

The responsibility for the closure of Talbot House has been laid elsewhere, but the timing is too much of a coincidence not to be part of the whole design to rid Toc H of its very life source.

The South East Regional Council have asked the Central Executive to delay implementation of their resolution long enough for consultation and the exploration of alternatives.

May I commend to readers the comments of the Editor of *Point Three* in October and the articles written by David Gibson in October and November.

Peter Ellis  
Wimbledon

An article in these pages (March issue) entitled *'The Way Forward for the Marks'* has already explained why the Central Executive Committee has decided to terminate them in their present format. I shall be grateful for the courtesy of these same pages to enable me to explain a personal consequence of that decision which is virtually impossible for me to convey otherwise to a wide circle of friends and former colleagues to whom, I feel, some explanation is due.

It is not for me to criticise current

policy decisions or to argue the pros and cons thereof. I am very conscious of the pressures of many practical problems upon those who are genuinely striving to preserve and promote the spirit of Toc H in an ever more difficult climate of society. There is, however, one specific issue which affects me personally.

Some 20 years ago, in the name and on behalf of Toc H, I was directly responsible for raising the necessary funds for the building of Prideaux House, Mark 3, Hackney. Those funds came from a wide variety of personal, corporate and trust donors, often after detailed and careful examination of the justification for a contribution, in response to what I consider was a commitment to build, equip and maintain a House with an avowed purpose — a purpose that in general has been richly fulfilled.

To close that House and appropriate the proceeds to other purposes, however laudable in themselves, appears to me to be a breach of faith with those who made it possible, in more senses than one, and thereby to compromise my own good faith and integrity. I see only one way by which I can dissociate myself from such a breach of faith. It has been an extremely painful decision to take but I feel that I have no option but to terminate almost half a century of membership of Toc H.

With all my heart I wish it well and sincerely hope that the new policies will succeed. I shall retain my close links with Poperinge, the Old House and all the new life, both local and international, that has sprung from it, through my membership of the Talbot House Association. I am profoundly grateful for all that Toc H has given me over the years, far more than I can ever express, not least the wealth of friendship. I hope I may still enjoy that. I just cannot, through membership, be a party to what I see as a betrayal of trust.

Colin Campbell  
Radcliffe-on-Trent

The Director's article on *'The Way Forward for the Marks'* dismays and disappoints me. The *'bright and financially secure future'* I foresaw in November's *Point Three* could scarcely have been more illusory.

Let me remind you of a previous article by the Director (*Point Three*, April 1974):

*"People who care," that's not a bad description of Mark 3 — the people being not just the warden, residents and domestic staff, but also the several hundred local people who are closely associated with the House and who identify themselves with its work. Toc H Hackney is the focal point of a widespread caring community.*

A 1,500 name petition, and reaction against the decision from Members of Parliament, Councillors and

local newspapers have proved that these words remain true in 1982. I do not understand the change in the Director's attitude.

The new figure of 12 residents, now fashionable among the Executive, is surely not large enough for the *'widest possible mixture of backgrounds'* and I have a ghastly vision of a 'holy huddle' of the cosily self righteous. Even if I am wrong and 12 is the right number, surely the destruction of a *'widespread caring community'* is not justified? The evidence that the *'present buildings are not adequate'* is not clear to me, nor was it to the Marks Review Team which was generally in favour of the present houses. The management structure, direction from the Toc H hierarchy, some staffing difficulties — here lies any inadequacy as the Director well knows.

The coincident staff redundancies make me think that the real reason for the sale is purely financial. The lack of any effective way of safeguarding the money from the Marks' sale, such as a Marks Trust, surely means that future Executives will not be able to resist the temptation to dip into the money for general purposes.

Over £½ million from the sale of Marks has already disappeared into the Family Purse. If the realisation of potentially profitable assets for short term financial advantage is the reason for the closure, why does the Director not say so to his membership?

On a final point of information, only one Executive member has any recent experience of life in Marks, so perhaps their mistaken impression of their value is excusable. What is unforgivable is the haste with which the decision was taken, and its presentation. Had the Executive wanted to hurt as many feelings as possible they

could hardly have done better. Myself and the Management Committee at Hackney have worked hard and long for Mark 3, because we believe it is an exciting place to live, and a continuation of Clayton's work at The Old House. Yet no consultation took place before the decision was taken; it was then kept secret from us for nearly two months; even then we were not given the elementary courtesy of a personal explanation from an Executive member. It all says little for the openness of government in Toc H, or for the attitude of the Executive to the members and helpers on whom it depends. I, for one, am not used to being treated with contempt, and it hurts.

David Gibson  
London

It is sad to note that Toc H has joined the national malaise of closures and redundancies. This we suppose is all part of progress, but is it also part of progress that we make and act on decisions so swiftly that there is no time to discuss our activities and their results with the people whom they most concern?

We have always thought that our Movement was one that cared about people, and that benefited the community and yet we understand that Prideaux House at Hackney is to be closed, without discussion with the Branch, or any thought to the many activities the house is used for.

These actions do not fit in with our ideas of a Christian Movement, and so we are very concerned that our Central Executive Committee are bringing Toc H into such disrepute.

Meg Lucas  
Heathfield, Sussex

## Note from the Director

1. The future of the Marks has been the subject of widespread discussion and debate for several years. The time has surely come for decisions to be made. We appreciate that these decisions have aroused deep emotions in some quarters. Nonetheless, the response to the first 'resources' tape showed clearly that members are looking to the Central Executive to take tough decisions on the use of all our resources. All such decisions are painful and almost inevitably unpopular in some places but they are, in the Executive's view, essential to the future health of the Movement.

2. I have assured the Management Committee of Mark 20 (Putney) that, if they have fresh proposals to make, I will be glad to place them before the Executive.

3. The Executive recognises that Prideaux House (Hackney) is a special case and that, in disposing of this property, we should, if at all possible, try to ensure that it continues as a centre for the use of the community groups of South Hackney. At the time of writing, we are involved — with the full knowledge and support of the local Branch — in discussions which we very much hope will achieve this.

4. It is the intention of the Executive to refurbish Mark 13 (Kennington) and to open it, before this year is out, as the first of the new, smaller units.

5. The commitment of the Executive to provide a residential Toc H experience, in a form appropriate to the 1980s and 1990s, is quite unequivocal. I hope that those who share a commitment to Toc H residential houses will make a positive contribution to bringing this about.

Ken Prideaux-Brune

# Open Forum continued

## The Role of Regional Councils

With reference to the article by Adrian Dudman (February's *Point Three*) I find his remarks about Regional Executive Councils' and Executive Committees' 'fiddling and worrying work' offensive to all members of all those Councils and Committees.

I hate to think that the work done by dedicated Toc H members over the years on these Committees is thought so little of by the General Secretary. Is he aware of how many miles, in all sorts of weather, we travel to attend these meetings? Claiming only the cost of petrol (and sometimes not that)?

If our work is so 'fiddling', which my dictionary defines as '*petty, futile, contemptible, inconsiderate*' why were the Committees set up?

Obviously these are the definitions that the General Secretary had in mind when he planned the recent redundancies without consulting the Regional Executive Committees.

Apart from my above remarks, I find the whole article indefensible.

Kitty Pill  
Swindon

I feel I must protest very strongly with regard to Adrian Dudman's article in February's *Point Three*.

First of all his comments re the role of Regional Executive Committees. I wonder why over the past years members have bothered to carry out their duties to the best of their abilities (after already having done a full day's work) now to be informed that their duties were 'fiddling and worrying'. What does he mean by 'fiddling'? My dictionary defines, '*fussy - petty - nonsense - trifling*'. If our work has been so fiddling, why on earth were Regional Councils set up?

He also states that the central deployment of staff will involve us in continuing discussion with the Regions and Districts. I challenge very strongly 'the continuing discussions with Regions and Districts', because up to date the saddest thing in this Movement has been the lack of consultation with Regions.

I was given to understand that this article would really clarify for the Movement the Personnel Committee's recent action -- it has however left me more confused than ever.

Marjorie Porter  
Bristol

Note: Please see 'From the General Secretary' in this issue!

## The Resources Debate

Hopefully Llanarmon Branch's article under the heading 'Use of Resources' (February *Point Three*) will stir up a few more impassioned pleas for change from other Toc H groups up and down the country.

It is the first healthy sign of Toc H life I have read for some time! I hope all members will make a point of reading it.

It shows there are alternatives to our present course. If there are others, let's hear about them!

Can we look ahead to a time when the tail will no longer wag the dog?

Jim Carnduff  
Skelmorlie, Ayrshire

We would like to add our voice to the far ranging discussion on resources. It occurs to us that as a Movement we give away more money to other charities and causes than we give to Family Purse. Is the reason perhaps that Branches like to see a tangible result of their efforts? A bed for a local hospital, for example? We came to the conclusion that there must be needs within the Movement that could be met by sponsorship by one or more Branches. Such sponsorship would alleviate the pressure on funds at HQ. Perhaps the powers that be would produce a list of items for sponsorship that would normally be met from general funds.

In the meantime, on the understanding that each issue of *Point Three* costs £900 to produce, I enclose a cheque for £100 towards the June 1982 edition. Are there eight other Branches prepared to do the same and make that issue cost free to HQ?

Charles Huggett  
Caister-on-Sea

Promote Toc H on the same lines as the RSPB? Interesting? I have been a member of one for close on 50 years and of the other for maybe ten years. As I see it, the concern of one is projection (of an ideal); the concern of the other is protection (of a species). Or, *conversation* and *conservation*!

The appeal of Toc H will always be to the few because it makes demands upon the way we think; the way we channel and project those thoughts into the things we do. As has been said and written thousands of times it is a way of life. That is its challenge.

'Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth' -- you'll have heard that before, too. To me it means personal

service rather than the more far reaching social service which is better left to those trained and funded to do it.

Maybe we have options -- we can 'cut our coat' and retain the spirit of Toc H or we can change its concept and lose every last drop.

E S Watson  
Rochdale

## Positive Discrimination

In reply to John Morgan (*Point Three*, February 1982, Open Forum) please note that I am a West Indian from Barbados, and black. I have been a member of the Gloucester Toc H Branch for the past nine years.

As human beings we measure success by wealth, power, size, experience, popularity, honours, being 'with it' etc. With God, success is knowing His Will and doing it. We in Toc H may be moving like the snail in most things, and this could include the above subject. We want to be certain of God's guidance before taking the next step.

Evan Alleyne  
Innsworth

## Archbishop William Temple

My wife and I read your interesting and perceptive editorial on William Temple (January *Point Three*) and found it most heartening, especially in view of some recent attempts to diminish the nature of his work and thought. However, on one matter I think you are at fault when you assert that he was never associated with any particular political party.

F A Iremonger in his book '*William Temple Archbishop of Canterbury - His Life and Letters*' writes on page 332 that 'early in 1918 he announced to the Lower House of Canterbury Convocation that he had joined the Labour Party'. It is true that, after seven years, he gave up his membership, but he remained, to the end of his life, deeply concerned about the problems and situations of the working man and the work of the Labour Party.

His book '*Christianity and Social Order*' was first published in 1942 as a Penguin Special. As a result of bringing some people together to study it in 1943, we wrote to William Temple asking what he meant by the Church and received a personal reply.

Revd D A V Worth  
Stroud, Glos

# A VOLUNTEER IN RURAL INDIA-4

by Derek Williams

The Hindu society of Kanhan Kshetra still functions very much along the lines of caste. Trades and professions such as farmer, potter, blacksmith and fisherman are passed on from father to son and marriages continue to be arranged between members of the same caste. A girl from a poor family will usually have little opportunity to go to school, being needed to look after the younger children at home and to work as a farm labourer to augment the family income. Indeed it is doubtful whether the school system can ever be appropriate to people in backward rural communities such as Kanhan Kshetra. AAVS has started nursery schools, which do free mothers from looking after their children and enable them to go to work. In several tribal villages new primary schools are running where no educational facilities had existed before. Yet many families are so poor that they cannot afford to lose a wage earner by sending their child to school, much as they appreciate the need for education. Those fortunate enough to attend the only High School in the area may end up little better off. The curriculum is geared solely to textbook learning and exam-passing and has no application to the rural surroundings. It is a tragedy that young boys see no future for themselves within the area itself and desperately try to obtain positions in the cities. They show little interest in improving the agricultural profession of their fathers. When I arranged for some craft training to be offered to the boys at the High School, they unanimously asked for typing classes because this would enable them to take a nice, secure clerical job in the city. But such jobs are scarce and idle groups of youth are a common sight in the centre of the villages.



AAVS is trying to use some of the area's unemployed youth in its education programmes. Basic literacy is a prime need: an illiterate man is an easy target for corrupt officials and moneylenders because he has no means of questioning their demands. Literacy gives a man both

confidence and self respect. However, paying a teacher is not enough; the people have to be motivated to attend an adult literacy class after a hard day of work in the fields.

Education alone will not eliminate poverty. The present crafts have to be strengthened to ensure regular employment and fair wages for the people. The Tribals are skilled at making bamboo baskets, which they have to carry many miles to market. AAVS has helped to form a worker's co-operative in one village, buying all the products at a guaranteed price and ensuring a sufficient supply of bamboo from the Forest Department. Middlemen are thus eliminated as is the need to 'steal' bamboo. Some workers are also sent for training in the construction of new designs, which have a wider market. Vocational training of this sort is of more immediate value to a tribal boy than a school he cannot attend.

(to be continued)



Mrs Evelyn Brindley and Mr Reg Scriven were recipients of Wroughton's electric wheelchairs (see story in 'Round and About', March Point Three).

# Talbot House, Southampton by Scott Shaw

Talbot House Young Seafarers' Club, Southampton, for 50 years a 'home ashore' for generations of young seamen, is to close. The reason can be summed up in just three words: times have changed. When the present Talbot House opened in 1932 (replacing a small hostel set up in 1924), shipping companies did not accept responsibility for crews once the ship was in port — up to a month.



*The original Talbot House for young seafarers, at the corner of Orchard Lane and College Street. In its eight year life, it took in 600 boys. '... and in spite of serious overcrowding, feeding in relays and sleeping where they could, the boys came back again and again, and to many of them it was the only home they knew'.*

The club was open to any seafarer between 14 and 19 and no boy was turned away because he could not pay. It provided home comforts, concerned itself with developing a lad's character and thought of his welfare, not only ashore but also afloat — keeping in touch through the shipping company and the ship's master wherever possible.

Gradually, pay and conditions improved and seamen could afford to travel home on leave. Harry Buckle, the last warden of Talbot House explained that nowadays, instead of staying near the port, waiting to sign on when a ship is ready, a crew member is called by the company and travels to the port at their expense. These and other changes meant a drop in the traditional demand for accommodation.

So Talbot House adapted to the changes, turning more to looking after engineer cadets who study for nine months at Southampton College of Technology. Said Harry: *'Without this influx of young men ... Talbot House would have had to close its doors ages ago'.* However, he added the club continued to fulfil a need, though a changed one. Seamen had much

better conditions and pay, but affluence does not solve everything. Loneliness, the need to talk to someone about a problem or a decision — Talbot House people were still there to help. Residents also had the chance to know Toc H through involvement with its voluntary work and contact with two young Toc H groups, the Magpies and the Flintstones. However, in recent years, and with other calls on their time, residents responded to a lesser degree.

To cover its costs, even with economies and continued generous help from benefactors and maritime charities, the club needed almost a full house — about 30 residents. Sadly, partly due to the recession, this has not been possible. King George's Fund for Sailors, which has given substantial grants over the years, made it clear that it could not continue with its support at anything like the previous level. Increasing the rents would not have helped; the club would have lost more residents to cheaper places, some of which were assisted by local authorities and, incidentally, often had less to offer.

Although Talbot House closes in April, by decision of its Management

## Your Peace for Good Friday and Easter

by Revd Richard Fox

Good Friday is a special day for all Christians. It is the day when we remember the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Down through the ages countless men and women have been profoundly affected by that death; They believed, as I believe, that Jesus Christ was God made man, and that man killed him by crucifying him — a terrible and a cruel way to die.

For the friends of Jesus, and especially for His mother, those hours on Calvary were moments of doubt and despair, darkness and sadness. They had seen the face of hatred and watched the inflicting of pain. In our own time, countless innocent men, women and children have suffered and died. Many experience daily hunger, many have seen their homes devastated and their countries overrun.

Some are persecuted or imprisoned for the colour of their skin or for their political allegiances or for their religious faith. Their longing and our longing in our lesser agonies is for faith and hope, for light and joy — yes, dare we say it, for love.

Do you recall that light is the symbol of Toc H, depicted by a lamp similar to one used by the early Christians. During the Ceremony of Light, we say, *'We are called to be instruments of God's will. Where there is hatred let us sow love; where there is injury — pardon; where there is doubt — faith; where there is despair — hope; where there is sadness — joy; and where there is darkness, let us bring light!'* You want to find meaning to your lives? Keep your eyes on the crucifix, but see by its side the glow from the Easter candle symbol of the Risen Lord — the one does not make sense without the other. You want the desires of your heart fulfilled? Then go in search of him for our hearts will be restless till they rest in him.

Every day God gives us is a Resurrection morning. Rising from the grave of past mistakes, we greet the dawning, shaking off the dust of all the sorrow and sinning, happy and triumphant in a new and glad beginning.

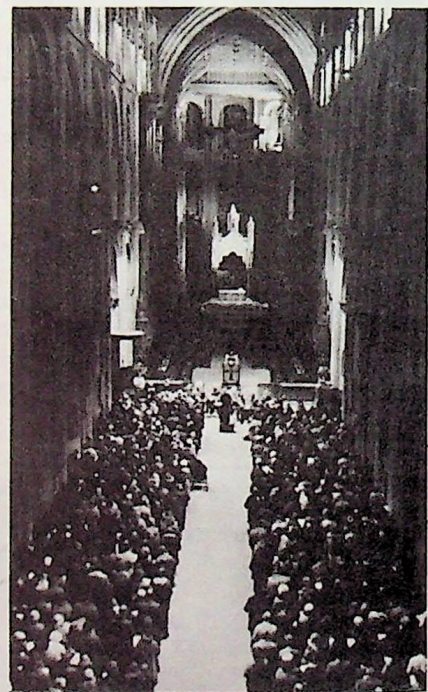
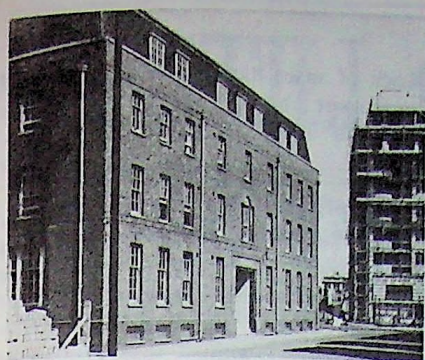


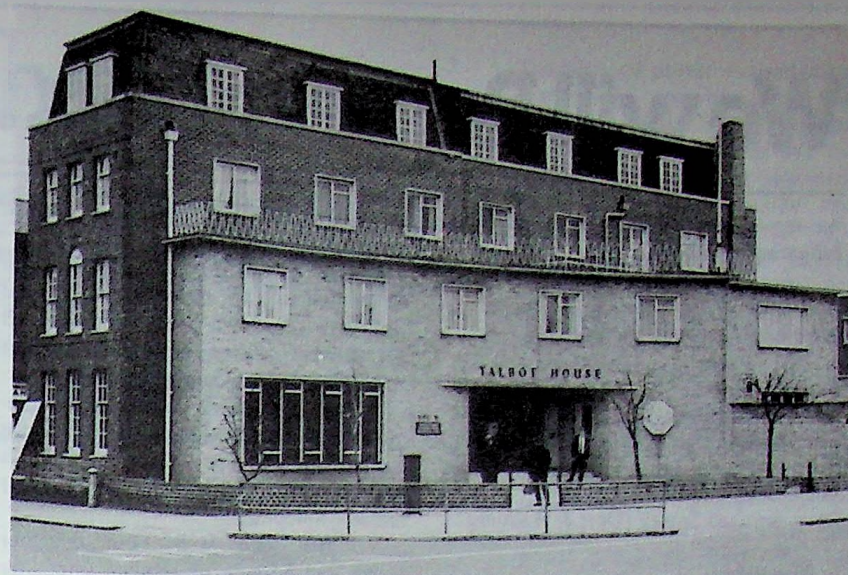
Photo: Tim Ferneyhough

*'Carols for All' was again the theme for Peterborough Branch's Christmas effort. 1,000 people gathered round the Cathedral's crib to sing carols; they were accompanied by the Salvation Army Band and led by the Cathedral's Master of Music. Local Branch members took up the collection which Toc H shared with the Salvation Army, the Cathedral and a special local cause.*



*The original front of Talbot House Young Seafarers' Club in Brunswick Square. When it was opened in 1932 '... the first building created by Toc H for its own particular purpose ... Some of the distinguished Admirals and Officers looked, perhaps, somewhat askance at the refinement of the furnishings but Toc H believes that beauty makes its appeal to the roughest and will gain the respect of those boys who have had little beauty in their lives ...' Toc H Dock House Branch worked 'as elder brothers' to be a good influence on the residents.*

Committee, everyone involved with it down the years can congratulate themselves on making it possible for the club to give 50 years of caring, in the widest sense, for the young seafarer. Special thanks are due to the Management Committee, several members of which have given years of dedicated



*Talbot House, final version. The Brunswick Square entrance was closed and a new extension built on to what had been the rear, using derelict land. This became the new entrance, facing a new main road, Queen's Way. The club re-opened in April 1959 with a new kitchen, improved washing facilities and 34 'berths' instead of 26. Among the guests at the re-opening ceremony were several 'old boys' representatives of whom continued to call at the club over the years.*

service; and not least to Harry Buckle who has worked for Toc H in this particular role since 1967.

Most of the unsatisfactory conditions which made Talbot House necessary have been swept away and it is good to know that some of the improvements were

partly due to the efforts of people at Talbot House itself. It could be said that Talbot House is an example of what the Movement as a whole was created to do — build a world in which Toc H is not needed, because its aims have been achieved.



Photo: Evening Echo

*Part of the fine Arts and Craft Show (all local artists) which Bournemouth and Christchurch Branch mounted with their Christmas bazaar. The show raised nearly £300.*



Photo: Blackpool Gazette & Herald Ltd

*Members and volunteers who worked on last year's Belgian holiday project for Blackpool handicapped children, were awarded third prize in Lancashire's Youth Award Scheme for the International Year of Disabled People. Alan Daniels, Jack Todd and Alf Hinton, went to County Hall to collect the prize — £100 plus a chess set hand made by disabled people.*

# We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.  
— Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

## In August

Alfred J S Downard (Seaford)

## In September

Doreen M Fisher (Ilford & Seven Kings)  
Dorothy M Gilbert (Ilford & Seven Kings)

## In October

Revd Bernard Sewell (Deal & Walmer)

## In November

Nellie Blunt (Bingham)  
Dorothy Nuttall (Worksop)

## In December

Thomas J Harding (Felpham)  
Cyril R Kohler (Woking) \*  
John C Newman (Edgbaston)  
William Roach (Bebington)  
J Wilfred Spooner (New Addington)

## In January

Chrissie Brush (Belfairs)  
Vincent F Carter (Salisbury Plain District)  
Doris G Dick (Clacton Afternoon)  
May Fenn (Gorleston)  
Roy J Gouldsworthy MBE (Cheltenham)  
George R Holehouse (Sheffield)  
George P Jones (Springfields District)  
Walter K McHugh (Hartley Wintney)  
Geo H A Murray (South Lincolnshire District)  
Christine O M Salter (Downend)  
Stanley F Spencer (West Hallam)  
Hannah Whinfield (Lakeland South District)  
Theodora E M Wright (West Worthing)

## In February

Harold G Burgess (Clacton on Sea)  
Rita L Newman (Edgbaston)  
Harriet Smithson (Bingham)  
Vera E G Wood (Richmond (Surrey))

\* See article in *Point Three*  
(November 1981)

James Lyndsay Orr BL was for many years one of the stalwarts of Toc H in Scotland: he served in every major office and in particular as Honorary Treasurer.

His activity was such as to make many of us wonder how he found time for a busy business life. He was very much a family man and many members of staff remember with gratitude the hospitality of his home and family on any number of occasions. He was a founder member of the successful Young Swimmer Association in the West of Scotland, an ardent Scottish Dancer and

an active member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.

As a Central Councillor he will be remembered for his eloquence and his ability to cut down dead wood with his wit and compassion, and much laughter was enjoyed in his company.

He was made a President of the Movement in recognition of his service and devotion to Toc H. His many friends were delighted at this honour which he himself welcomed.

His wife Molly and daughter Helen can be sure of genuine sympathy and gratitude that they allowed so many of us the opportunity of knowing him.

A memorial service is to be arranged in Scotland later this year.

J MacM

Bill Roach (Bebington Branch) died on Thursday 10 December 1981, just three days before his 96th birthday. In that week he had been to Evening Service on Sunday, his Pensioners' Club on Monday afternoon and to the Branch Meeting on Tuesday night! He was game to the end despite having had an operation for cataract two years ago and a number of heart attacks earlier in the year.

Bill served in the Cavalry in the First World War and was at Ypres about the time Talbot House opened though was not able to visit the House before moving on to the Balkans. Until recently he shot for Cheshire each year at Bisley. As a representative of the Scottish Oil Company, (later British Petroleum), he travelled this country and could recount many interesting experiences.

Bebington Branch came into being in 1953 but it was not until 1961 that Bill caught up with us, after which he rarely missed a meeting and until quite recently always got involved in whatever was happening. He delighted in chivying us on whenever there were signs of faint-heartedness.

He was proud of the fact that he almost shared Tubby's date of birth, missing it by only a few minutes.

RB

Vincent Carter, who died on 31 January, will be remembered by his friends as a true Christian. He knew no bitterness, though lesser men would have given way to it, even after he had been made redundant (long before redundancy became an accepted part of life) and he had been treated by some people in a way which can only be described as shameful; regretfully this included some Toc H members. His faith in people never

faltered, nor his belief in the ideals for which Toc H stands. He joined Toc H in the early 1930s and quickly became deeply involved in the vigorous life of London Toc H — a vigour which, by comparison with today, seems unbelievable. An accountant by profession, he was a member of the Central Executive Committee when the rebuilding of All Hallows started. It was through him that the plaques on the pew-ends were carved by a master carver.

Vincent and Betty's charming home (where Tubby was a frequent visitor) was a major centre for Toc H activity in the Reading area — Betty playing a most active role; the jumble sales they organised are still legendary.

His greatest contribution to Toc H, like many of his generation, was the encouragement of younger members to accept great responsibility within the Movement. Toc H is the poorer for his death — but by far the richer for the way in which he lived by its ideals.

J & MH

John Newman (Edgbaston Branch) died last December. He had been a member for nearly 32 years but following a serious operation, had been in deteriorating health for the past two years. John was closely connected with the running of our Shenstone (Old Peoples') Club. . . He will be sadly missed.

FAL

Jabez Wilfred Spooner ('Wilf') died on 22 December 1981, after a long illness. He had been our Pilot for many years and was a much loved and respected member of the Branch. Apart from his Toc H activities he was a hard working member of the community, founding many other groups, ranging from Jazz to Youth Clubs. He was a founder member and Church Warden of St Edward's in New Addington and laid out the gardens. He was a member of The Lamplighters, the Branch's entertainments group, which puts on shows for the elderly and handicapped.

Wilf, with his wife Molly, was awarded the Martin Kelly Award by the Addington Community Association in 1980, for outstanding service to the community. He will be sadly missed by all those people and organisations he came into contact with.

LS

We give thanks for their lives

# BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here for £2 per annum. The Publications Department at Wendover still have copies of 'Yours is the Glory'. The Chaplain will let you have a fuller list of daily intercessions, with names, if you just ask him.

## BORDON LETTER By Don Lockhart

### TOUCHED AND HEALED

It is not an uncommon experience to discover that a familiar reading has suddenly taken on a new significance. It may have been the result of a change in life's circumstances, a new experience, a new relationship or possibly an accident or other crisis. On the other hand there may have been at the time no discernible reason.

A few years ago I came across the following:

*To be touched and healed and forgiven by Christ is not simply to be restored to what we were before. It is to be given a new outlook, a new purpose, new strength and courage.* It continues — *'It is to live no longer for ourselves, wrapped up in our own interests and ambitions, worried over our own troubles and frustrations and feebleness — but for Christ and His work. It is no longer even to cling to Christ for ourselves, but rather to "go to the brethren" and tell them that Christ is supreme — for the love that Christ wants of us is not a love that seeks emotional satisfaction, but a love that issues in obedience to Him and in service to others.'* I do not know the source of this passage, but I have turned to it on a number of occasions, conscious of the truth of its message — and that's about as far as it went.

It was I think at the 1976 Toc H annual Council Meeting, that John Hull spoke about the place and importance of 'touch'. . . . There are many instances of our Lord touching people as part of healing and forgiveness — in fact it was nearly always so, except perhaps when He healed at a distance as a result of the faith of others. In the 'laying on of hands', touch is very much part of this healing process.

Over the last few years the Church has become much more aware of the place that healing ought to take as part of its ministry. My own church has for nearly two years now included as part of the evening service, once a month, the simple act of 'the laying on of hands' for all who wish to come forward to receive the 'healing power of the Holy Spirit' either for themselves or on behalf of

others, and a very large majority of the congregation do so.

Recently I have been granted the privilege of this ministry, including a very simple service of healing in which my wife shared, taken by my own Rector at my bedside. The need for this came about following the achievement of a long standing climbing ambition that resulted in some damage to my heart — and my pride! It left me both rebellious, that it should have happened to me, and frustrated on realising the effect that this would probably have on my future activities. The healing that was needed therefore was more than just physical — 'not simply to be restored to what we were before', the kind of healing in fact about which the passage referred to is speaking — a restoration to 'wholeness' which is the true meaning of health.

What followed was a very real assurance that all was well, no need for anxiety about the future, whether or not physical healing resulted. From that moment the rebellion and frustration began to vanish. In a strange way it has proved to be an experience that I feel now has enriched my life. And so it is that the passage about the touching, healing, and forgiveness of Christ and what follows became alive in a new and very real way — it has the 'Ring of Truth' about which J B Phillips has written.

It would be both arrogant and untrue however, to infer from this experience that I 'had arrived' — far from it. There is still and always will be, for each one of us, the continuing need for His touch, His healing and His forgiveness, if we are to know and receive something of that love of His which 'issues in obedience to Him and in service to others'. I do not wish to dwell on this personal experience, except to try to share, very inadequately, a little of what I have learnt from it, in the hope that it may be helpful to others:

1. 'Healing' does not necessarily depend upon one's own faith nor upon one's own efforts, nor does it result in every case in complete physical healing.

2. The place of prayer — continuing prayer by members of the congregation not only at the time of the 'laying on of hands' and the prayers of friends, (in my case both within and outside the fellowship of Toc H). I have been very conscious of such prayers and grateful for them as well.
3. God sometimes has to take us by the scruff of our necks and give us a jolt in order to direct our ways into His way.
4. It has been a humbling experience no longer to be able to do physically those things that one was proud of in the past — to have to rely on others for what one would previously have taken in one's stride. Even more humbling perhaps is to discover how well things get done, often better, in one's absence!
5. Perhaps most importantly a greater awareness of the needs and circumstances of others, particularly the handicapped and sick.

What has the sharing of this experience (and I apologise for it being of such a personal nature) to do with Toc H? I am not sure and yet if we are called to 'work for His Kingdom in the wills of men' — to bring to others 'wholeness' in its totality — then we all need the experience of 'being touched and healed and forgiven', in order that we may be 'given a new purpose, new courage — and that love that issues in obedience to Him and in service to others'. It will come about in many different ways for each one of us.

I asked God for strength that I might achieve  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey

I asked for help that I might do greater things  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things

I asked for riches that I might be happy  
I was given poverty that I might be wise

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things

I got nothing that I asked for but everything I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered —  
I am among all men most richly blessed.

# For your diary

The Treorchy Male Choir, conductor John Cynan Jones, is to sing again in Wiltshire in aid of that County's Cheshire Home, 'Greathouse', Kington Langley, Near Chippenham. The concert is to be held in Salisbury Cathedral at 7 pm on Saturday 24 April 1982. Tickets priced £3, £2, and £1.50 are available from Salisbury or from Reginald Coates, Greathouse Cheshire Home, Kington Langley, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

The choir has sung in five Toc H sponsored concerts in Chippenham since 1971 in aid of Greathouse and has adopted a room there. The last concert, in 1980, was in aid of a future Chapel, and part of the proceeds was added to the Warden Manor grant from Toc H to purchase a new piano.

In view of the distance from Chippenham, this concert is being organised by the Cheshire Home Management Committee with help from Salisbury Rotary Club.

## Ears and Eyes!

'Ears & Eyes', Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. 8-15 September Cost £23.

Come and be the ears and eyes for six super blind/deaf people. Accommodation is at a small purpose built home, and as well as learning how to relate to the handicapped you will have lots of fun with them. We have a minibus for outings etc. It is on a 1-1 basis and we need four females and one male.

**Particulars from: Miss Joan Gates, 8 St Martin's Close, Cromer, Norfolk NR23 0BN. Tel: 0263 (Cromer) 513970.**

## Poperinge

Central Councillor Jackie Davidson plans to run a visit to the Old House from 20 August to 30 August 1982. The total cost, to include travel from London and back, food and accommodation, is expected to be about £100 + 5,200 Belgian francs. Only four places still available.

**Anyone interested should contact Jackie at: 33 Ingram Road, ME7 1SB (Tel: 0635 (Medway) 575 802).**

## It's Festival Time!

Following the success of 1980's Regional Festival, the N Wales and NW REC has decided to hold similar events every other year. The next one will be on 15 May 1982 at Kendal, in the Lake District.

### The proposed programme is:

- 3pm Service:  
St George's Church, Castle St,  
(Preacher — Revd Edgar Wallace)
- 4.30pm Tea:  
Kirby Kendal School
- 6pm Entertainment  
Kirby Kendal School  
(followed by an address by  
guest speaker Adrian Dudman  
Toc H General Secretary).
- 8.30pm Homegoing Prayers

Limited local accommodation is available if you book early.

**Further information from and applications to: Arthur Woolmer, 18 Greengarh, Station Road, Holme, Via Carnforth, Lancs.**

## It's Free!

'S' registration Dodge 12 seat Minibus. 1700 cc petrol engine. Approx 22,000 miles on the clock. Some visible signs of use but generally in good condition.

We could sell the bus but are prepared to transfer it to another Branch or Branches free and on only one condition — that the bus should stay within the Movement. Reason for disposal: there is now a plethora of minibuses in our area and use has diminished. All replies to: **Charles Huggett, Hon Sec, Caister Joint Branch, 35 Upper Grange Crescent, Caister-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.**

## Congratulations!

Enid and Hubert Cozens (W Sussex District members) celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 19 April (Primrose Day!) Hubert first joined Leatherhead Branch in 1927 and Enid joined the LWH in Harrow in 1934. We join with all their friends to wish Enid and Hubert every happiness for that day and for the future.

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Used Postage Stamps wanted (and pre-1945 postcards), to help buy and train a guide dog. Please send to: Michael Pickwick, 4 Ashdale Drive, Heald Green, Cheshire.

Wanted. 'This England' all 1968, 1969, 1971 and 1972. Joann Poulson, 126 Bellara Drive, Bribie Island, Queensland 4507.

North Buckinghamshire. For properties in the area between £10,000 and £30,000, please contact Bonner & Son, Chartered Surveyors, 12 Market Square, Buckingham. Telephone: 028 02 2301.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Ballestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Weymouth — Bed and breakfast £5.50, optional dinner £2.00. Close seafront and harbour. H & C. Shaver points. Teasmades. Guests colour TV lounge. Home cooking. Separate tables. Own keys. Full fire certificate. SAE.: Weyside Guest House, 1A Abbotsbury Road, Weymouth. Tel: 03057 72685.

Visiting London? Economical, convenient for centre. Single, double, multi-bedded rooms, lounge, restaurant, coffee car, TV, Chapel. Bed, breakfast, optional dinner. Group package 'ours, group conferences. Rates from £5.40. King George's House, YMCA, Stockwell, London SW9 9ES. 01 274 7861.

Bakewell, Derbyshire. Bed & Breakfast in Christian home, central heating throughout. Evening meal optional. Parking space. Terms on request. Mrs M Newton, Grey Gables, Greaves Lane, Ashford, Nr Bakewell, Derbyshire. Tel: 062 981 2798.

Torquay Toc H. Holiday flat available. Bedroom D & S beds, lounge with put-u-up for two, kitchen and bathroom, everything provided except sheets and pillowcases. Apply: Mrs Johnson, 12 Warborough Road, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3PL. Tel: Torquay 37671.

Christian Singles Holidays; Weekend House parties; Tours (Devon, Scotland, USA, Switzerland, Holy Land). Friendship contacts. Group activities. Outings. Nationwide-Christian Friendship Fellowship, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

Broadgrove Life Light. Flashing light unit for the elderly and infirm. Mains operated, safe, reliable, easy to install. £23 + p & p. Send for details: 6 Carleton Close, Esher, Surrey KT10 8EE.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.